



Application No.: 09/887,978

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site. Therefore, the placement of the filter is approached in a different way than in the invention as claimed. Moreover, one feature of the claimed invention is to reduce the number of structural elements for deployment of a filter into a vasculature. The claimed invention of combining a filter with a steerable guide wire reduces the number of surgical structures to one. Mazzocchi uses at least two structures to place the filter, i.e., the catheter and the guide wire. Also, in Mazzocchi, an additional structure of a guide wire without a filter may be necessary to initially place the introduction or balloon catheter.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) as being unpatentable over Mazzocchi (WO96/01591) and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazzocchi in view of U.S. Patent Serial No. 5,329,942 to Gunther et al. Claim 23 as originally filed recited "an elongated flexible core wire having a proximal end and a distal end for insertion and steering through a patient's vasculature." Therefore, as filed, claim 23 clearly recites a steerable wire. Claim 23 has been further amended to further describe the steerability feature based on the wire contacting the vasculature during steering.

As described above, Mazzocchi does not teach a steerable guide wire and indeed teaches away from it. Therefore, Mazzocchi does not teach at least one element of claim 23. Moreover, Gunther does not provide this teaching. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejections be withdrawn and claim 23 be passed to issue.

Applicants further respectfully request that the above amendments and remarks be fully entered and considered by the Examiner since the steerability feature of the inventive guide wire was recited in claim 23 as originally filed and pending as of the March 3, 2003 Office Action. However, in addressing the elements of claim 23 allegedly taught by the cited prior art, the Examiner did not address the steerability feature. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner do so in response to this amendment since this feature is not taught by the cited prior art.

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**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Dated: July 3, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By



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